

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of)
)
MINEMURA et al.)
)
Application Number: To be Assigned)
)
Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
)
For: INFORMATION REPRODUCING METHOD AND)
INFORMATION REPRODUCING APPARATUS)
)
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. HIRA.0142)

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

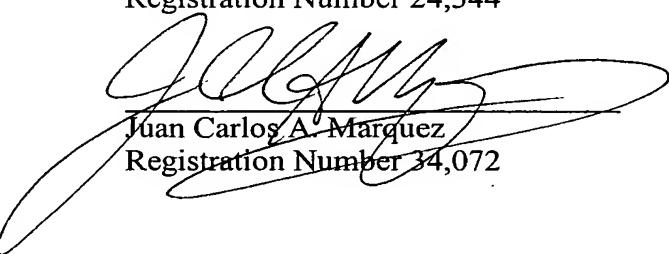
Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of October 31, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese patent application 2003-372885.

A certified copy of Japanese patent application 2003-372885 is being submitted herewith. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 10, 2004

(Translation)

JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of the following application as filed with this Office.

Date of Application: October 31, 2003

Application Number: Japanese Patent Application
No. 2003-372885

Applicant(s): Hitachi, Ltd.
Hitachi-LG Data Storage, Inc.

January 9, 2004

Commissioner,
Japan Patent Office Yasuo Imai (seal)

Certificate No. 2003-3110337